

Dear Commerce Committee:

I was absolutely horrified to learn of HB 5263, a bill to allow the processing of thousands of rabbits for food consumption, bringing the factory like farming of these amazing animals to Connecticut.

Rabbits are the third most common household pet after dogs and cats. Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits. They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption, which is the same treatment they give to dogs and cats. Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales. The multibillion dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in testing programs due to consumer pressure.

While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, Connecticut is proposing to slaughter them for human consumption. I am begging you, PLEASE don't let this happen.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Virginia Van Norden